

# WITH THE FARMERS

By Prof. W. F. MASSEY

Friday, September 5, 1913.

## Reinforcing Manure.

"What is the best material to use with my stable manure to increase its efficiency? I notice that plaster and acid phosphate have been recommended for this purpose."

W. F. Massey. But will not directly increase its efficiency. Acid phosphate and the pulverized raw phosphate rock will do so. At the Ohio experiment station it was found that so little as forty pounds of these in a ton of manure greatly increased the efficiency of the manure. In fact, made about three times the crop that untreated manure made. The acid phosphate gave the largest increase, but the raw rock gave the most profitable increase because of its smaller cost. It was found that it will pay very well to use either of these to the extent of 100 pounds in a ton of manure as it is cleared from the stable. It was also noted at the Ohio station that the stall manure treated gave greatly better results than manure from the open lot. In fact, the most profitable way to use manure is to get it from the stable to the field as rapidly as possible. This was most completely done on a large stock farm I visited in Alabama. I saw no manure whatever around the barn. The barnyard was perfectly clean, and any droppings put there while the stock is out are cleaned up at once and put into the manure spreader ready to go to the fields. The owner said that there was always some place on the farm where the manure could be spread, and he generally had a chance to get it out when the machine was full, as it was kept standing at hand ready to load.

## Sundry Queries.

A correspondent in Campbell County writes a long letter from which I extract the following: "I was told at the Farmers' Institute in Lynchburg that tomatoes are an excellent soil improver, and gathered more nitrogen than clover. The man saying this is an intelligent man, and has several farms, and I did not feel that I could argue the point, though I have never seen anything of the sort in a number of farm papers I take. Where I have tomatoes I wish to get the soil prepared for alfalfa. It was in cow peas and then in crimson clover and now in tomatoes. I expect to sow crimson clover again and turn it next spring for tobacco. Will it do to sow the alfalfa after the tobacco is off? I need more hay, and have been thinking of Johnson grass, but am a little afraid of it. Can it be eradicated? When should we sow oats?" Tomatoes will furnish a very considerable amount of organic matter which will tend to form humus in the soil. But the nitrogen in these vines comes from the soil, and not from the air, as in the case of peas and clover. Where I live every farmer has a field of tomatoes to sell to the packing houses, and it is a common practice to sow crimson clover seed all over the patch while gathering the fruit. They also sow the clover over the field in cantaloupes and watermelons. If you get the tobacco off the land so that the alfalfa can be sown in early September it will do very well. But you should break up a very hard soil in a ton of slaked lime an acre or two tons of ground limestone, and then apply a liberal dressing of acid phosphate and potash. Oats in your section should be sown early in September. Sow the Virginia Grey turf oats.

## Cheat.

King William County: "Some of my neighbors who are very successful farmers, contend that oats seeded in the fall turn to cheat. Will you please give your views in The Times-Dispatch?" It is perfectly correct to argue on this matter with men who think they know that oats turn to cheat, and I have long since concluded that it is a waste of time and effort to try to convert them. But the species of plant never turns into another. No oat plant ever turned to cheat nor ever will. Cheat is an entirely different species of grass as any other grass, and it grows only from cheat seed, and never did nor ever can grow from an oat seed. Sometimes oats sown in the fall will get winter killed, and the cheat that was sown with them lives, and the farmer, seeing something green, thinks it till it is dead, and then he finds that his oats have turned to cheat, when it was cheat from the start. The cheat seed looks very much like a small oat grain, and is very commonly sown with oats. Now it takes the cheat grass all winter to grow and form heads. But you can sow the same oats with cheat among them in spring, and will find no cheat, for it will not head out from the spring sowing. If you sow cheat seed and find there is no cheat seed already in your soil, you will have no cheat, for what sower a man sows that also he shall reap. You cannot grow cheat unless you have cheat seed to make it. Oats can no more turn to cheat than corn will turn to wheat. Now do not go to piling in the letters to me saying that you know that oats will turn to cheat, for you do not know any such thing, and I shall not waste space by trying to explain the matter. Study plant life intelligently and you will be ashamed to believe any such fable.

## Garbage Ashes.

I read with great interest your letters in The Times-Dispatch, and wish your advice in regard to the ashes from the city incinerator at Lynchburg. They are pulled out every morning, and the clearest ones are hauled away by the local farmers and gardeners, and the remainder that has a lot of tin cans and other hard material, is carted out and thrown on the dump. Will these second grade ashes be worth hauling half a mile and loading on a car to ship twelve miles, unloaded and hauled another half mile and spread on a worn grey gravelly soil? How much could I afford to spend per ton? I fear that your query is rather too much for me. I have no analysis showing the composition of such ashes, and ashes of any sort that have lain on the dump and exposed to the weather long, will not be worth much. The clearing of these ashes from the refuse would cost a good deal of labor, and then I doubt very much if the material will be worth the hauling and freighting, and hauling again and spreading if it is

given you free. Ashes from such materials will, of course, vary a great deal, and while they may be worth hauling when freshly drawn, they will lose value rapidly when exposed to the weather. Perhaps the Virginia Experiment Station at Blacksburg or the superintendent of the Chatham station nearer by you, can tell you something about the value of these ashes from actual analysis. I do not think I would undertake to clear them of refuse and haul and freight them.

## Some Hints From a Reader.

I live in a large city, but have never lost my love for agricultural pursuits. I read your talks with the farmers with avidity and the deepest interest. If the young men who quit the farms and rush to the cities because "farming does not pay" could be induced to read and put in practice your instructions, which, to my mind, are models of utility, the tide would flow from the country life, and these same boys would soon be piling up bank accounts, in addition to making the old farm blossom as the rose.

In making your instructions more valuable, these "talks" should be properly filed and placed by the readers of The Times-Dispatch. I have found the following a simple way: Write the date at the top of the columns; cut out and paste in an old book, from which each appropriate page has been torn. Then, make a card index, an outfit for which can be had of any stationer, but a paper box with white cards will answer, and I need not dwell on the value of filing this useful material daily. I hope that you will continue to write and tell the farmers what they want to know in The Times-Dispatch. No part of the paper is of greater value to them, and the State.

I am always glad to get appreciative letters from men of intelligence. All these who are interested in farming, will read the letters, but the great difficulty is to get the men whom I wish most to get hold of, to read them. The men who are down in the dirt, consulting the moon and following the old methods in farming. The men who do not believe in book farming and who are not making a success in their kind of farming. If we can rouse up these men, and show them where they can improve, it will be worth all the labor it takes to reply to these letters. Those that appear in print are really a small part of those I receive, for when a man writes on a matter that is of interest to no one but himself, if he encloses a stamp, I send him a reply by mail, and this year up to this date (August 21) I have written personal replies to 2,416 letters since the beginning of the year. In this personal correspondence I get hold of many of the "mossback" farmers and read them a lecture.

Campbell County: "Please tell if the Supperhough grape can be grown down in Norfolk County, and whether peaches and apples will thrive there?" The Supperhough grape thrives in Norfolk County as well as anywhere in the country. In fact, it is raised in great quantities at home there. It thrives where I live, but I am near the northern limit. Peaches and apples will grow in Norfolk County, but not to the same quality that they will in Campbell County. If Johnson grass will stand your winters successfully I fear that your neighbors would have cause to find fault with you for starting it. It wants the whole country when it once gets started, and I would not advise its introduction where it has not already appeared. Write to the secretary of agriculture and ask for sample of the Sudan grass for trial. It is said to be equal to Johnson grass, and will not become a pest.

## What One Sees on the Road.

I was driving in the country yesterday and I passed two farms only separated by the county road. Both belonged to men of fair means. On the one side of the road was a field of corn that had been planted on a crimson clover seed. It was a very heavy growth, and green to the ground, and gave a promise of making near seven bushels a corn acre. On the other side of the road was a field that had been cultivated in the best manner and left perfectly level, and the land was clean of weeds and grass. On the other side of the road was a field of corn. It was yellowish in color, and the lower blades were drying up and fired nearly to the ears. It had been banked up with a turning plow in laying by, and, of course, the corn had been torn and the feeding portions largely cut off. The field looked as though it might possibly make twenty bushels, but I would not vouch for even that much. The two fields were almost identical in the character of the soil. Both were level sandy fields with a good clay subsoil. The only difference was that on the one farm the owner is adopting the best methods of farming and improving his land, and is growing forage crops and buying beef cattle to feed his winter, and he makes manure, of course, and the other man is still following the methods of his grandfather, and does not believe in book farming, and with an example of his neighbor right across the road he complains that his land is poor, while he is keeping it poor. He has eyes, but he sees not that good farming pays, while his sort does not. And we find these cases all the time. I can see them from a railroad train. Heavy fields of corn right alongside of fields that will hardly feed the mule that worked it. And the amazing thing is that the poor farmer does not see the reason of his poor land. I can see in almost any section fields that the owner knows, if he knew anything, that a paying crop of corn could not be expected on it in its present condition. And yet he plants it and spends the whole summer cultivating it after his fashion, working hard, probably, and hardly making a hireling's wages. And they do this year after year in spite of every good example they see every day around them. How are we to get at these men? The main hope that I can see is in the demonstration work properly carried out. Yesterday I met one of the department demonstration agents. He told me that he was going into the adjoining county to organize the work there. I suggested that he do not look after the men who are now doing fairly well, but to seek the men who do not believe in book farming and try to get them interested in the demonstration work on their own farms.

This work is accomplishing great good, and the boys in the corn clubs have opened the eyes of their fathers in many instances, and have grown crops of corn that their fathers never realized could be made on their land. When a farmer's boy makes 100 or more bushels of corn on an acre it is apt to make his father ashamed and he begins to think some, and when a man can be started to thinking, and using his brains in his business, there is sure to be some improvement.

# FARMERS TO BOOST HIGH COST OF LIVING

National Union Decides to Hold This Year's Cotton for Fifteen Cents.

## SOME URGE HIGHER PRICE

Action Binds Nearly 2,000,000 Members, Not Including Sympathizers.

Salina, Kan., September 4.—The high cost of living will be higher as a result of the action of the National Farmers' Union here to-day, by placing the prices at which members will sell this year. The crop of cotton is placed at 15 cents a pound. The present price is approximately 12 cents.

The action of the convention binds every member of the union to hold his cotton until the market reaches the figure. Although in the past repeated efforts have been made to have a similar resolution passed by the convention, the advocates of the proposal always failed to muster the necessary votes. This year there was no opposition to the plan.

Some Want It Higher. Several of the leading cotton growers wanted the minimum figure fixed at 17 cents or 18 cents, pointing out that owing to the tightness of the money market and the unsettled conditions in Europe and this country, prices of all products would soar, and cotton would bring that price if the members of the union held it. The union held a vote at 14,074,500 bales. Last year it was 14,200,000 bales, and the price averaged 12 cents.

There are nearly 2,000,000 members of the union who are cotton growers, and leaders in the movement say their neighbors who are not members of the organization will join in holding the crop until it can be marketed at 15 cents a pound.

Hold Up Cotton Seed. The minimum price at which cotton seed is to sell was placed at \$30 a ton, and the members agreed to stick to this price. Last year's price ranged around \$26, which is approximately the present market price. Consolidation of the rural schools as the best method of improving the educational system in rural communication and thus make farm life more attractive was included in a resolution which called for an increase in the length of the rural school term and compulsory attendance. Other resolutions urged greater protection for animals and birds.

## OVER CLIFF IN AUTOMOBILE

Tourists Seriously Injured by Accident

Near Little Mt. Her husband, Beverly Chew Duer, was cashier of the Bank of the State of New York. He died in 1909. Mrs. Duer is his sister. Beverly Duer, Jr., is twenty years old. Their town residence here is on East Seventy-eighth Street, near Fifth Avenue, and they have a home in France.

New York, September 3.—Mrs. Duer is a wealthy widow. Her husband, Beverly Chew Duer, was cashier of the Bank of the State of New York. He died in 1909. Mrs. Duer is his sister. Beverly Duer, Jr., is twenty years old. Their town residence here is on East Seventy-eighth Street, near Fifth Avenue, and they have a home in France.

## HEAR FROM NEWLANDS

Nevada Senator Is Coming to Vote on the Tariff Bill.

Washington, September 4.—Senator Simmons to-night expressed gratification over a telegram he received to-day from Senator Newlands, of Nevada. For more than a month Mr. Newlands remained silent in his home State, declining to respond to appeals from his associates as to how he intended to vote on the tariff bill. In his message to Chairman Simmons, Mr. Newlands said he will arrive Friday. He said he has a number of important amendments he desires to have submitted to a Democratic conference. Senator Simmons said this request would be complied with. Senator Newlands does not say how he will vote on the bill, but the chairman of the committee assumes that Mr. Newlands will act with his colleagues, or he would not ask that his proposed amendments be considered at a party conference. Mr. Simmons said he hoped to see the final vote taken no later than the middle of next week.

## THROWS BOUQUET AT KAISER.

American Woman Causes Excitement in Berlin Police Circles.

Berlin, September 4.—The Berlin police this morning completed twenty-four hours of feverish investigations and examinations, all brought about because an American woman threw a bouquet of roses from a window of the hotel as Emperor William was passing yesterday on his way to the military manoeuvres at Tempelhof Field. The bouquet bore the inscription: "To the Great German Emperor." The police were greatly exercised because of the unusual actions of the woman, who wore across her breast a huge placard bearing the words "40,000 days." They promptly arrested her, and required her to go to a police station and establish her identity. She declared that the placard indicated merely her belief that the world would be changed in 40,000 days. The police declined to-day to make her name public.

## CAST OPIUM INTO SEA.

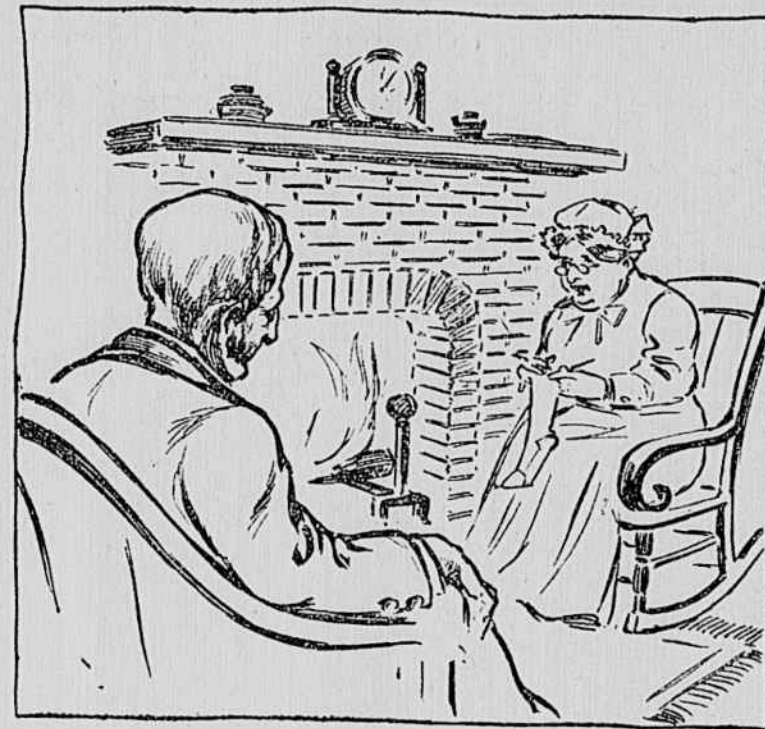
Authorities Think Manchuria Had a Very Much Larger Cargo.

San Francisco, September 4.—United States customs officials expressed the belief to-day that a large quantity of opium was thrown into the sea from the Pacific Mail liner Manchuria, which vessel arrived here on Monday, and that the fifty-nine cans of the drug discovered on board formed only a small portion of a big shipment. Though all of the wireless stations near here were placed under close surveillance days before the steamer arrived, it developed to-day that a message had been sent to the vessel from some station. Passengers and crew knew in advance of the plans of the officials. Though the search of the Manchuria was continued to-day, no more opium was found.

# You Can Solve To-Day's Contest Picture IF YOU HAVE A CATALOGUE

All the 77 correct titles to the 77 Booklovers' Contest pictures are in the catalogue, waiting to be found. No book knowledge is necessary to win first prize. And you can start right now, getting all pictures to date FREE.

The Times-Dispatch's Great \$1200.00 Gold Booklovers' Contest Picture No. 41 Date, September 5th.



What Book Does This Picture Represent? Write Title and Name of Author in Form Below

Title .....  
Author .....  
Your Name .....  
Street and Number .....

City or Town .....  
TOTAL NUMBER OF PICTURES, 77. Contest began July 27th. Each day a different picture appears in this space. Cut them out. Save them until the last picture appears on October 11th. Don't send in partial lists. Wait until you have all the answers to the 77. Read Rules, Daily Story and Special Announcements in another part of this paper. It will help you win a prize. Extra pictures and coupons of any date that have appeared may be had at 2c. Enter to-day without registering your name. Merely Save Pictures and Coupons as they appear.

## USE THIS ORDER BLANK FOR CATALOGUE

If you cut this order form, fill it out and send or bring it in with the sum designated, you will receive the Official Copyrighted Contest Catalogue of about 5,000 book titles, and seven certificates redeemable for the first thirty-five pictures in the contest. In the catalogue are all the correct titles to the seventy-seven pictures. Catalogues, 35 cents at this office, 40 cents by mail.

Do Not Send Stamps or Silver. Send Check or Money Order.

Booklovers' Contest Editor, The Times-Dispatch:  
Inclosed find 40 cents, for which send me a Booklovers' Contest Catalogue of about 5,000 book titles and the seven certificates redeemable for the first thirty-five pictures.  
Name .....  
Street and No. ....  
City ..... State .....

# GET AN ANSWER BOOK (It Contains 77 Double Pages) AND 35 PICTURES FREE

You can make ten answers to each picture, yet only need but one copy of each picture.

On the upper page you paste a picture. On the lower section you write from one to ten book titles which you have selected for the picture pasted above.

You save time, labor and expense with an Answer Book, and it helps you to win.

USE THIS ORDER FORM FOR THE ANSWER BOOK.

Booklovers' Contest Editor, The Times-Dispatch:  
Find herewith 80 cents (75 cents at office), for which deliver to me your Answer Book and six certificates, returnable as the pictures appear in the contest for Pictures Nos. 36 to 70.  
Name .....  
Street and No. ....  
City ..... State .....

Do not send stamps or silver. Send check or money order.

# Essential Facts About The Times-Dispatch's Booklovers' Contest

- 1--There is no cost to you, except one copy of The Times-Dispatch every day and a catalogue if you feel the need of one.
- 2--You can enter now without registering your name.
- 3--Every member of the family may enter.
- 4--There is fun, recreation and pecuniary benefits.
- 5--77 pictures comprise the series--the first, July 27th; the last, October 11th.
- 6--The pictures appear every day in The Times-Dispatch.
- 7--Every picture is drawn to represent the title of a book, and one only.
- 8--You are permitted 10 answers to each picture.
- 9--You can secure an Answer Book which enables you to make 10 answers to each picture, and yet only require one copy of each picture. If you do not have an Answer Book you must secure an extra picture and coupon for each extra answer you make, costing you 2 cents each. Therefore, the Answer Book saves you time and money. Get the Answer Book.
- 10--A catalogue will be sold at 35 cents which contains 5,000 book titles, including 77 correct ones. This catalogue is now on sale.
- 11--You can win any of the 50 prizes which total \$1,200.
- 12--Three prominent business men of Richmond will be the judges.
- 13--Beware of fakers. Do not buy any lists of "correct titles."
- 14--You are free to ask questions, provided they do not bear upon the solving of pictures. You will be answered in the paper.

## BEWARE OF FAKERS

Who Offer to Sell Worthless List of Titles--They Cannot Help You

### How They Work

These fakers generally advertise that for a 2-cent stamp they will send several titles, which, in the opinion of the fakers, will prove correct titles to the pictures. Accompanying the "sample" lists of titles will be a letter advising that for 50 cents, a dollar, two dollars, or more, they will supply lists of titles that will seem to fit the pictures. Don't deal with these sharpers. If they could furnish a list of titles, they would solve the pictures--they would use their own lists and win the prizes. They know no more about the titles than you do.

The principal features in connection with this contest are copyrighted by the Booklovers' Contest Co., San Francisco, Cal.

children cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA